

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle?

1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #148

**CHARGE TO ELDERS
ORDINATION SERVICE**

(This is Part 1 of this study. Part 2, #149, deals with the scriptural qualifications and duties of elders.)

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the LORD; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the LORD shall raise him up; and, if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

James 5:14-15

PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING WERE TAKEN FROM THE *CHRISTIAN MINISTER'S MANUAL*
COMPILED BY RODERICK HURON.

Charge and Statement of Purpose

Jesus Christ is Lord of His church. Founded upon the conviction that He is the Son of God, AND knowing that we are redeemed by His blood, nourished upon His Word, upheld by His intercession, and commissioned to do His will, we His Body desire to give our lives to Him in service to His church.

Christ did not set up His church and then abandon her. Rather, He sent His Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth, so that the body would have all it needed to do the work Christ intended and also be protected from those forces which would destroy her.

Elders were named in each congregation and given oversight in spiritual matters. Paul speaks of this responsibility in his charge to the elders from the church in Ephesus:

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood Acts 20:28).

An elder's work may include preaching and teaching, as in 1st Timothy 5:17; praying with the sick, as in James 5:14; shepherding the flock, as in 1st Peter 5:2 and 3, and, from the same passage, serving as a good example. The elders see that the gospel is preached, taught, and lived; that prayer is continuous; that Christian love and a spirit of unity prevail; that workers are selected and trained; that the straying are brought back into the fold, and that the kingdom of Christ extends abroad.

I charge you who are to be installed as elders to remember that First Love Ministries has chosen you only after seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and only after believing with all our hearts that the Lord Himself has chosen you for this office and set you apart to shepherd this flock and to oversee the spiritual welfare of this ministry.

First, we ask members of First Love Ministries: Will you promise to encourage and honor these elders in all things consistent with the Word of God and zealously aid them in the discharge of their responsibilities and remember to keep them in daily prayer? **WE WILL.**

Secondly, we ask these elder candidates: Have you prayerfully considered the responsibilities and obligations which the office you are called to fill carries with it? **I HAVE.**

And, will you promise that, always seeking divine help, you will faithfully perform the duties of elder, studiously endeavoring to learn and do the things that will make for peace, purity, and spiritual growth of this Body of Believers? **I WILL.**

We ask all the pastors and ordained ones in this fellowship to come and lay hands on these who have been separated to be elders and to pray over them as the Lord leads.

CLOSING PRAYER

LORD, we thank You for the privilege of serving Jesus. We confess that none of us are worthy of Him, nor are we, in our own strength, equal to that holy task. We ask that You take our weakness and turn it into strength, so that, trusting in YOU and not in ourselves, we may do the work that you are calling us to with victory and with honor to the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Our Father, we pray for those who will serve as elders. May they be faithful shepherds, feeding and guarding and guiding this flock in their care. We ask Your blessing and divine protection and provision upon these who will serve. May they each have loving hearts and helpful hands and may their ministry always magnify and lift up Jesus and His cross. Grant a spirit of kindness and cooperation and unity among us, so that this body may be joined and held together, that it may grow and build up itself in love, according to the proper working of each individual part. Through Jesus, whom we desire to serve above all others, we pray. Amen.